

This was because Supervisor Stuart L. Hall of Williamsville District refused to discuss the specific sections of the ordinance itself, instead monopolizing the meeting to voice his opposition to any kind of zoning for Bath.

He contended that "nobody in my district is interested" in zoning, adding that "only fat cats who want to isolate themselves" want zoning and that "the young fellow hasn't got a chance."

Turning to M.G. O'Farrell, a member of the county planning commission that drafted the ordinance, Mr. Hall said, "Why do you or any other individual think you have the right to tell me what to do with my property?"

"If progress is going to be made, you've got to think about your neighbor," Mr. O'Farrell replied, adding that zoning is necessary so "people don't go around trying to destroy the beauty of Bath County," he said.

Chairman Roy M. Cleek, noting that the planners had submitted the ordinance in January 1968 and nothing had been done since, said, "If we do our duty we'll have to dispose of this ordinance one way or another."

"Zoning is one part of every day life," Mr. Cleek said, adding that if the county doesn't pass a zoning law, it won't be eligible for special funds to aid with road relocation in the Gathright Dam area and will have to use its own secondary road funds.

Still, Mr. Hall wasn't convinced. "My people would rather drive on dirt roads than be dictated to by a zoning ordinance," he said.

In another matter, the supervisors voted to consider at their regular meeting next Tuesday a proposal to finance the county's Hot Springs landfill entirely through revenue sharing funds. Bath is expected to receive about \$54,000 this fiscal year through revenue sharing.

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Still, Mr. Hall wasn't convinced. "My people would rather drive on dirt roads than be dictated to by a zoning ordinance," he said.

In another matter, the supervisors voted to consider at their regular meeting next Tuesday a proposal to finance the county's Hot Springs landfill entirely through revenue sharing funds. Bath is expected to receive about \$84,000 this fiscal year through revenue sharing.

Also to be discussed is a proposal to have central trash collection points in the eastern half of the county, with the trash hauled to the Hot Springs landfill. Mr. Cleek said this would be cheaper than developing another landfill in the Millboro area.

The supervisors also approved a contract to allow for road relocations made necessary by the Gathright project, under which the county agrees to abandon the necessary rights-of-way.

THIS SCENE OF SPONAUGLE GAP, on the South Branch of the Potomac River between Blue Grass and Forks of Water in Highland County shows a building which housed a wool

carding machine. The picture, which dates to the early 1900's, was furnished by Mrs. Betty Myers Newlen of Kensington, Md.

# Gathright Dam Defended

COVINGTON - In defending the Gathright Dam project in Bath and Alleghany counties against charges by environmentalists in Norfolk and Newport News, Ben C. Moomaw maintains the dam will help the environment, and he believes the injunction suit recently filed in federal court in an attempt to halt construction of the dam will not delay the project.

He contends opponents of the project have exaggerated its alleged faults and made little or no mention of its benefits.

Mr. Moomaw is executive vice president of the Covington Alleghany County Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Gathright Dam Committee of the James River Basin Association, and he has been a leading supporter of the project for many years.

He said: "I don't think recent years.

He said: "I don't think recent legal actions against the dam will substantially delay construction. All present construction will be continued and no new construction is contemplated until April 1, and we feel sure the case will be decided on its merits by that time."

Referring to legal action initiated against the dam in just the past few days, Mr. Moomaw added: "I don't know where these people have been all this time. The dam was initially authorized by Congress in 1946, construction has been in progress about five years, and \$15 million has been spent on this construction so far. If this project is such a disastrous and wasteful thing as they claim, why didn't they take steps to stop it years ago?" A suit at this time appears to indicate the greatest degree of irresponsibility.

Asked directly for his view of the actions of the environmentalists who filed suit to halt work on the dam, Mr. Moomaw added: "We are very much concerned that they are ignoring completely all the advantages of this project and greatly exaggerating the points which they are bringing up against it."

"They have recommended that the project be stopped to save the government a substantial out-

## Localities Get Revenue Share Payments

RICHMOND - Revenue-sharing checks totaling more than \$52.6-million were mailed by the U.S. Treasury Monday to the Commonwealth of Virginia and its localities.

Of the total, \$35,082,556 went to the cities, towns and counties and \$17,546,071 to the state and its agencies.

Bath County received \$27,835, Highland County got \$25,918, and the Town of Monterey, \$2,440.

The checks were the first share of federal funds made available under the revenue-sharing law enacted by the 92nd Congress and will cover only the first six months of the program.

Checks of similar size are to be mailed later - probably in January. They will give the General Assembly, which convenes next month, a total of about \$35-million to allocate, over and above regular state revenues. The localities will allocate their own revenue sharing funds.

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lay of money, when in truth what they are recommending is that the \$15 million already spent on construction be thrown down the drain."



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# Vepco Project to Bring 4,000 More People Into Area

... Four thousand persons will be...  
 ... Bath and Highland...  
 ... neighboring Po...  
 ... County, W. Va., as the...  
 ... construction work on...  
 ... Virginia Electric...  
 ... pumped storage...  
 ... Back Creek, area...  
 ... Wednesday of...  
 ... representatives met with...  
 ... of the governing boards...  
 ... commissions of the...  
 ... at the Bath County...  
 ... to present informa...  
 ... of the general...  
 ... of construction impact

on the area. Should the \$469-million generating facility be built - and Vepco said last week it plans to file with the Federal Power Commission within 30 days an application for a license to build it - the impact on Bath, Highland and Pocahontas would be considerable.

- According to information presented last week, the construction of the facility would require:
- Housing for 4,000 persons, including 1,800 project employees expected to be brought into the area and their families.
  - Facilities for 860 new ele-

mentary and secondary students, including 43 additional teachers and 40 more classrooms.

- Five additional physicians, two more dentists and 16-18 additional hospital beds.

During the meeting, Vepco representatives asked the county officials to consider the impact on local housing, schools, roads and community services so that steps can be taken to meet the needs as they arise.

Local officials who attended the meeting said they left with the impression that the impact, though considerable, would not be so great as it might seem

because the additional population would be spread over the three counties.

Still, they said, planning would have to begin immediately so that adequate services can be provided for these new people.

Both Bath and Highland counties could expect a marked increase in school populations, but, officials say, facilities are available to handle the increase.

Highland School Supt. H.C. Lunsford Jr. said there is room in county schools for about 200 additional pupils. This might mean reactivating the Blue Grass

Elementary School, closed since 1971.

Bath School Supt. Russell L. Thomas said the increase in that county can be met by the planned vocational training wing at Bath County High School and by adding some classrooms at Valley Elementary School. It has also been suggested that the former Valley High School building, now privately owned, be leased back and refitted for school purposes, if necessary.

The real crunch, local officials say, would come in the areas of housing and sewage and water

(Continued on page 5)

### VEPCO PROJECT (Continued from page 1)

services - commodities that are in short supply in both Bath and Highland.

The thinking is that most of the additional population would be housed in trailer parks, since it would be uneconomical to build a home that would be lived in for only a few years. Area officials say that since it appears that a considerable portion of this development would take place in the vicinity of the Back Creek site, sewage and water service, now not available there, would have to be provided.

At present, sewage and water service is limited to the Monterey area in Highland and the Warm Springs, Hot Springs and Ashwood-Healing Springs areas of Bath.

This new development would also require additional ordinances, local officials say. Highland now has a zoning ordinance, but Bath hasn't adopted one, though a zoning law has been proposed. Bath now has trailer and subdivision ordinances, but Highland doesn't. Area officials who attended the meeting said these ordinances are necessary if orderly planning is to be achieved.

Statistics presented by Vepco indicate that 2,400 persons would be employed on the Back Creek site during the peak manpower period estimated to occur from April 1975 through July 1976. Of this figure, 500 would come from the local commuting area and 1,800 from outside the three counties.

The average manpower covering the period from October 1974 to June 1980 is estimated at 1,250.

Projected salary profile, based on the 1972 wage rate, ranges from \$5,700, with 262 persons at this bracket during the peak period, to \$20,000, with 46 in this bracket. Total estimated wages and salaries are \$90 million, with the average annual wage put at \$11,750. It is estimated that the

### KENNON NAMED (Continued from page 1)

caused by teachers planning to leave the county school system. Mr. Kennon, a graduate of Covington High School, is no stranger to Bath County, having taught social studies and science at Valley from 1969 to 1972.

He received his bachelor of arts degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1969 and a master's degree in elementary education from the same university in 1972.

Mr. Kennon has worked as coordinator of the In-School Neighborhood Youth Corps in Covington and now serves as principal of Eagle Rock High School. He is married to the former Carol Sites of Covington; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brown W. Kennon, live in Covington.

Concerning the two impending vacancies on the school board, Mr. Thomas wrote a letter to Roy M. Cleek, chairman of the Bath County Board of Supervisors, stating that their successors must be appointed within 60 days prior to July 1. Dr. Myers and Mrs. Lockridge represent Valley Springs and Williamsville districts, respectively. As the result of a referendum in 1971 doing away with the Trustee Electoral Board, school board members are appointed by the board of supervisors.

The following teachers were appointed for the 1973-74 school year:

- Miss Paula Gould, who will graduate this month from Radford College, to be librarian at Bath County High School.

- Rodney K. Cox, a March graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, to teach English at BCBS.

- Mrs. Claudia Summers, who will graduate this month from VPI to teach math at BCBS.

Miss Ruth Adair Fix, who will graduate this month from Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., to teach first grade at Valley.

- Miss Catherine Drea, who graduated from Madison College

counselors for pupils at the 34th session of the Virginia Music Camp to be held June 18-24 at Massanetta Springs.

- Voted to provide for the implementation of school board liability insurance, at an annual cost of \$250, effective July 1.

### BATH MOVES (Continued from page 1)

to provide an adequate program to meet the needs of both in-school youth and adults. The center should include courses in home economics, business education, distributive education, building trades and auto mechanics.

- Plan programs for disadvantaged and handicapped students.

- Consider the initiation of an industrial arts program. Mrs. Pursley said practical arts courses in agriculture, distributive education, forestry, general mechanics, home economics and typing now taught at BCBS do not result in trained skills or qualify the students to enter the world of work.

### BATH SCHOOL BUDGET (Continued from page 1)

and additional \$800 for holders of master's degrees.

The school budget also calls for a \$13,312 increase in local funds, from \$479,548 in fiscal 1972-73 to \$492,860 in the coming year. State funds are increased from \$291,600 to \$421,160; federal funds from \$45,000 to \$71,000, and other funds remain at \$5,700.

The supervisors' vote to accept the school budget was 4-0, with Supervisor Stuart L. Hall absent from the meeting.

Blagg is teaching at High School for the term. Harlan Boatman, Elmo Varner went to Redwood bicycles and Fred... business... Thursday. The bush growth the Sipe Bar... which has four... own blossoms... sizes. It attracts attention.

8-3906  
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April 1974... this figure, 500... the local commuting area and 1,800 from outside the three counties.

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It is estimated that the 600 employees of local origin would support 650 dependents, including 390 children, while the 1,800 employees from outside Bath, Highland and Pocahontas would support 2,000 dependents, including 1,200 children, and a service-related population of 200. The total project-related population is estimated at 5,250 - about the current population of Bath County.

Cats are more popular than dogs. There are 28,000,000 pet cats in the U.S., and only 23,000,000 dogs.

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**Optometrist**

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... month from Radford College, to be librarian at Bath County High School.

- Rodney K. Cox, a March graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, to teach English at BCHS.

- Mrs. Claudia Summers, who will graduate this month from VPI to teach math at BCHS.

Miss Ruth Adair Fix, who will graduate this month from Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C., to teach first grade at Valley.

- Miss Catherine Drean, who graduated from Madison College in March, to teach fifth grade at Valley.

- Miss Janice Lemaster, who graduates this month Emory and Henry College, to teach fifth grade at Valley.

Urban O. Cleek general supervisor, said 26 teachers - including five in federal programs - have said they are not coming back next year. Asked by Col Robert P. Carroll why the turnover is so high, Mr. Cleek said most of the teachers are leaving because of marriage, maternity leave and to enter graduate school. He also said applications have been received for nearly all the positions becoming vacant.

In other matters, the school board:

- Learned that all county schools have been accredited by the State Board of Education.

- Learned that the physical education program at Millboro Elementary School has been designated as one of Virginia's demonstration centers for visitors to observe, and voted to send a letter of commendation to the teacher, John M. Jenkins.

- Learned that Mr. and Mrs. Glen Burtner, music teachers in county schools, will serve as

cost of \$250, effective July 1.

## BATH MOVES

(Continued from page 1)

to provide an adequate program to meet the needs of both in-school youth and adults. The center should include courses in home economics, business education, distributive education, building trades and auto mechanics.

- Plan programs for disadvantaged and handicapped students.

- Consider the initiation of an industrial arts program.

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# Meeting on Vepco Project Centers on Housing Lack

WARM SPRINGS - Housing will be the most critical problem facing area officials and Virginia Electric and Power Co. in planning for the influx of workers at Vepco's proposed pumped storage project on Back Creek.

This was made clear at a meeting Tuesday night of Vepco representatives and members of the Bath County board of supervisors, school board and planning commission to discuss the impact to be created by the \$469-million generating facility.

"We would like to avoid getting into the housing business," said Kenneth Moore, who will be Vepco's resident engineer at the project. Instead, Vepco would like to depend on local resources, he said.

However, these local resources don't seem to be available, Mr. Moore was told. Erwin S. Solomon, Bath County commonwealth's attorney, said there is no housing available in Bath. "Either a private investor will have to build here or you will have to do it yourselves," he said.

Mr. Solomon said he felt no private investor would build houses for what would be a short-term occupancy by Vepco workers without a subsidy from Vepco. "Is Vepco willing to do it?" he asked.

The housing shortage was touched upon in a meeting Monday night in Marlinton, W.V., between the Vepco representatives and officials of Pocahontas County, W.Va., which would get some of the influx. It likely will be a prime subject of conversation at a meeting scheduled for Tuesday,

May 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Maple Restaurant in Monterey to discuss the impact of the project in Highland.

Pocahontas residents seemed "very enthusiastic" about the project, reported Peter W. Smith, Vepco district manager in Clifton Forge. He said one landowner voiced interest in developing a mobile home park, and there are some other possibilities in the Marlinton area.

During the peak construction period in 1975-76, there would be 2,400 workers on the project, including 600 from the tri-county area and 1,800 from other places. The additional population is expected to be about 4,000. Vepco would like to attract more workers locally than is projected, Mr. Moore said.

A.H. Cauley, chairman of the Bath County Chamber of Commerce, said there is plenty of areas for mobile home development in Bath and wondered if Vepco might subsidize development of sewage and water facilities. He said he felt the Mountain Grove area would be the best place for a large mobile home park.

Rick Larsen of the Daniels Construction Co., which will build the pumped storage facility, said a "substantial number" of workers will bring their own mobile homes. If this is the case, suggested Supervisor Norman T. May, would Vepco be willing to lease land and provide water and sewage so the workers can bring their trailers?

Mr. Moore said this is the first construction project that he knows of in which Vepco

has been involved in which "we might have to enter the housing business. This is new to us. We know to a large extent that it's not available now. What we like to know is how it can best be made available.

Mr. Smith said the two main questions appear to be what acceptable sites are available for mobile homes and how the mobile homes are going to be brought to the sites.

Following the meeting, Roy M. Cleek, chairman of the Bath County Board of Supervisors, appointed a committee to study the housing problem, locate possible sites for mobile homes and report their findings to Vepco. The committee consists of Mr. Dalton, chairman; Mr. Cauley, Mr. Solomon, Clarence F. McMullen and John F. Trimble.

## Monterey to Air Budget June 4

MONTEREY - A public hearing will be held Monday, June 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the courthouse on the Town of Monterey's proposed budget for fiscal 1973-74.

Monterey Town Council voted last week to hold the hearing on the budget, which leaves unchanged the town's tax levy rates of 20 cents per \$100 assessed valuation on real estate and \$1 per \$100 assessed valuation on personal property, merchandise, capital, machinery and tools. The budget anticipates revenues

of \$27,400 and expenditures of \$16,224, leaving a balance of \$11,176 on June 30, 1974.

Administration expenses have been budgeted at \$3,190, repairs and maintenance at \$7,664, election expenses at \$400 and miscellaneous expenses at \$4,970.

The revenue figure anticipates a balance of \$13,000 on June 1973, with revenues from current taxes set at \$4,500. Auto and truck license sales are expected to realize \$1,400 and sewer fees and connections, \$3,000.



OLIN WAYBRIGHT of Monterey caught these lunker trout, a 21 1/2-in. Brown, weighing 4 pounds, 6 ounces, and a 22 1/2-in. Rainbow, weighing 4 pounds, 10 ounces, while fishing Little Back Creek in Highland County last Saturday. A spinner lure attracted the big trout.



# Highland Moves

MONTEREY - Highland County's board of supervisors gave its assent Monday to the preparation of a trailer ordinance for the county, after being told that a trailer law should be enacted to regulate the influx of mobile homes expected to accompany construction of Virginia Electric and Power Co.'s proposed storage project on Back Creek.

It is expected that about 4,000 additional persons will move into both Highland counties and Pocahontas County, W. Va., on a temporary basis during the peak construction period on the Vepco project. During meetings last month with area residents, Vepco officials said they thought most of the workers coming in to work on the project would prefer to live in mobile homes.

Also, the supervisors were told Monday by Commonwealth's Atty. R. Turner Jones that additional schoolchildren accompanying the influx would cause a financial burden to the county that cannot be met by personal property taxes levied on the mobile homes.

A trailer ordinance can set a permit fee on each trailer, Mr. Jones said, noting that while this added revenue will not come close to meeting the cost of educating the schoolchildren, it will at least bring more money into the county coffers than is coming now.

"You're going to have to educate their kids while they're here, and you ought to get as much out of them as you can," he said.

It cost \$702 per pupil during the school year just ended to educate Highland County students, based on average daily attendance.

## Public Meet Set On Vepco Project

MONTEREY - A public meeting on Virginia Electric and Power Co.'s proposed pumped storage project on Back Creek will be held Thursday, May 14, at 1 p.m. at the courthouse under the sponsorship of the Highland County Chamber of Commerce.

The speaker will be Richard Duffey, manager of Vepco's Covington office, who will show slides and models depicting how the project will look when completed.

A trailer ordinance would also control where the mobile homes can be located, Mr. Jones explained, commenting that without the trailer law, the homes could well be scattered haphazardly throughout the county.

He also said a sample trailer ordinance was prepared in connection with the establishment of the county planning commission. He told the supervisors he would compare this draft ordinance with trailer ordinances from other counties and prepare an ordinance that would suit Highland's needs.

## Highland Rec Program Listed

MONTEREY - D. Harvey Eye, director of the Highland County recreation program, has announced that the county recreation program for grades five through 12 will begin Monday, June 11, at 9 a.m.

All young people are invited to attend as many of the sessions as possible. The recreation program will run for seven weeks and will include a variety of activities. Activities scheduled for the week of June 11-15 follows:

Monday, June 11 - Boys' basketball, grades 8-12, 1-10:30 a.m.; boys' basketball, grades 5-7, 10:30 a.m. - noon; weight training, grades 7-12, 1-2:30 p.m.; girls' softball, grades 5-12, 2:30-4 p.m.; Little League, 4-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 12 - Girls' basketball, grades 8-12, 9-10:30 a.m.; girls' basketball, grades 5-7, 10:30 a.m. - noon; tennis, grades 5-12, 1-12:30 p.m.; free activity, grades 5-12-30 p.m.; free activity, grades 5-12, 2:30-4 p.m.; Babe Ruth, 4-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 13 - Boys' basketball, grades 8-12, 9-10:30 a.m.; boys' basketball, grades 5-7, 10:30 a.m.-noon; weight training, grades 7-12, 1-2:30 p.m.; girls' softball, grades 5-12, 2:30-4 p.m.; Little League, 4-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 14 - Girls' basketball, grades 8-12, 9-10:30 a.m.; girls' basketball, grades 5-7, 10:30 a.m.-noon; tennis, grades 5-12, 1-2:30 p.m.; free activity, grades 5-12, 2:30 p.m.; Babe Ruth, 4-5:30 p.m.

Friday, June 15 - Boys' basketball, grades 8-12, 9-10:30 a.m.;

# Toward Tr

The supervisors have received a copy of a trailer ordinance for Louisa County. In a letter to Supervisor Chairman Harry L. Puffenbarger, that county's administrator, Dean P. Agee, suggested that mobile homes be permitted only in trailer parks or on land owned by a member of the immediate family.

Mr. Jones told the supervisors he would have an ordinance prepared by the board's July or August meeting.

In a related matter, two of Highland's three supervisors balked at adopting a resolution stating the board's willingness to cooperate with Vepco in planning for the Back Creek project.

Supervisor Roy V. Robertson said he wanted to know more about the routing of power lines out of the facility. Plans call for one line to run across the southern part of Highland County en route to a power station near Bridgewater. "I don't think we ought to jump overboard," Mr. Robertson said, adding, "We might get the impact but we're not going to get any tax dollars from the project."

Vice Chairman J.R. Hooke said he was reluctant to support the project until it is known whether Vepco will help underwrite the cost of educating the additional schoolchildren.

Chairman Puffenbarger said "I don't think it will hurt to pass the resolution. We're going to have to work with them anyhow."

Mr. Jones told the board that the resolution "should have been passed six month's ago. The longer you wait, the more it's



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## Public Meet Set On Vepco Project

MONTEREY - A public meeting on Virginia Electric and Power Co.'s proposed pumped storage project on Back Creek will be held Thursday, May 14, at 8 p.m. at the courthouse under the sponsorship of the Highland County Chamber of Commerce.

The speaker will be Richard Dudley, manager of Vepco's Covington office, who will show slides and models depicting how the project will look when completed.

Mrs. Joe Sullenberger, chamber president, said everyone is invited to attend especially persons interested in the project from the standpoints of work, housing, expanding businesses and general impact on Highland County.

The solar corona, the white-hot halo of luminous gas that is most visible when the moon blocks the sun's dazzling face during an eclipse, thrusts steam-ers more than 5,000,000 miles into space, National Geographic says.

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## Rev. Wingfield to Show Slides of Holy Land

HOT SPRINGS - The Rev. Floyd J. Wingfield Jr., director of the Bath United Methodist Larger Parish, will show color slides of his trip to the Holy Land tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 p.m. at Hot Springs Presbyterian Church.

Brid... ough... Robe... migh... not... from... Vis... he... pro... Ver... cos... sch... Cl... don... the... hav... M... the... pas... in...

# s Toward Trailer Ordinance

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Mr. Jones told the board that the resolution "should have been passed six months ago. The longer you wait, the more it's

going to hurt your case. I'd hate to think that Bath County got all the improvements because you all sat around and did nothing."

In the end, the supervisors voted unanimously to adopt the resolution and forward a copy to Vepco.

The supervisors also adopted a \$606,952.27 planning budget for fiscal 1973-74 following a public hearing at which no one spoke for or against the budget. Also adopted were the tax rates for the coming fiscal year, which are unchanged from the current levy of \$2.50 per \$100 assessed valuation on real estate and \$4 per \$100 assessed valuation on personal property.

In other matters, the supervisors:

- Adopted a resolution permitting non-profit organizations to hold bingo games and raffles in the county. Groups wishing to sponsor such events must obtain a permit from the supervisors and comply with regulations set forth in the resolution.

Directed Aubrey Tidd, the

contractor working on renovations at the courthouse, to purchase white circular bricks to veneer the columns supporting the front porch. There had been a problem of plaster crumbling from the columns, possibly because of moisture, and Mr. Tidd has asked the board whether it wanted the columns veneered with brick or replastered.

- Adopted a resolution directing that new buildings can be assessed for the portion of the fiscal year during which they are fit for use. At present, they can be assessed only after Jan. 1.

- Were asked by Sheriff Glen Hammer to purchase a portable radar set to help curb the problem of speeding in Monterey, Blue Grass and McDowell. It was noted that a grant could probably be secured to purchase the radar, which would cost about \$950 to \$1,000 and can be moved from one car to another.

- Heard Sheriff Hammer express concern over difficulty in enforcing the county license stickers because of difficulty in spotting them on windshields owing to their light colors.

## Changed Telephone Number

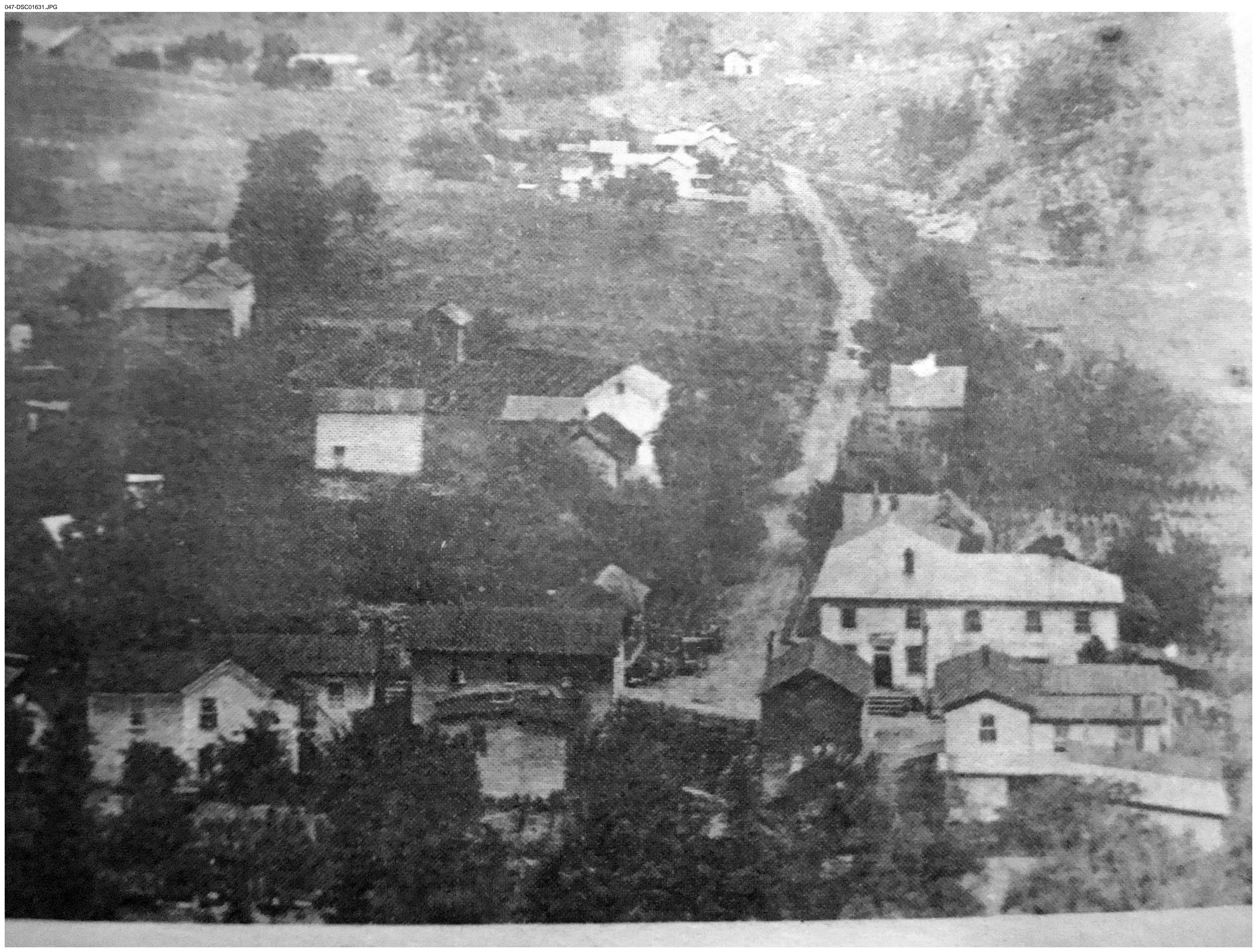
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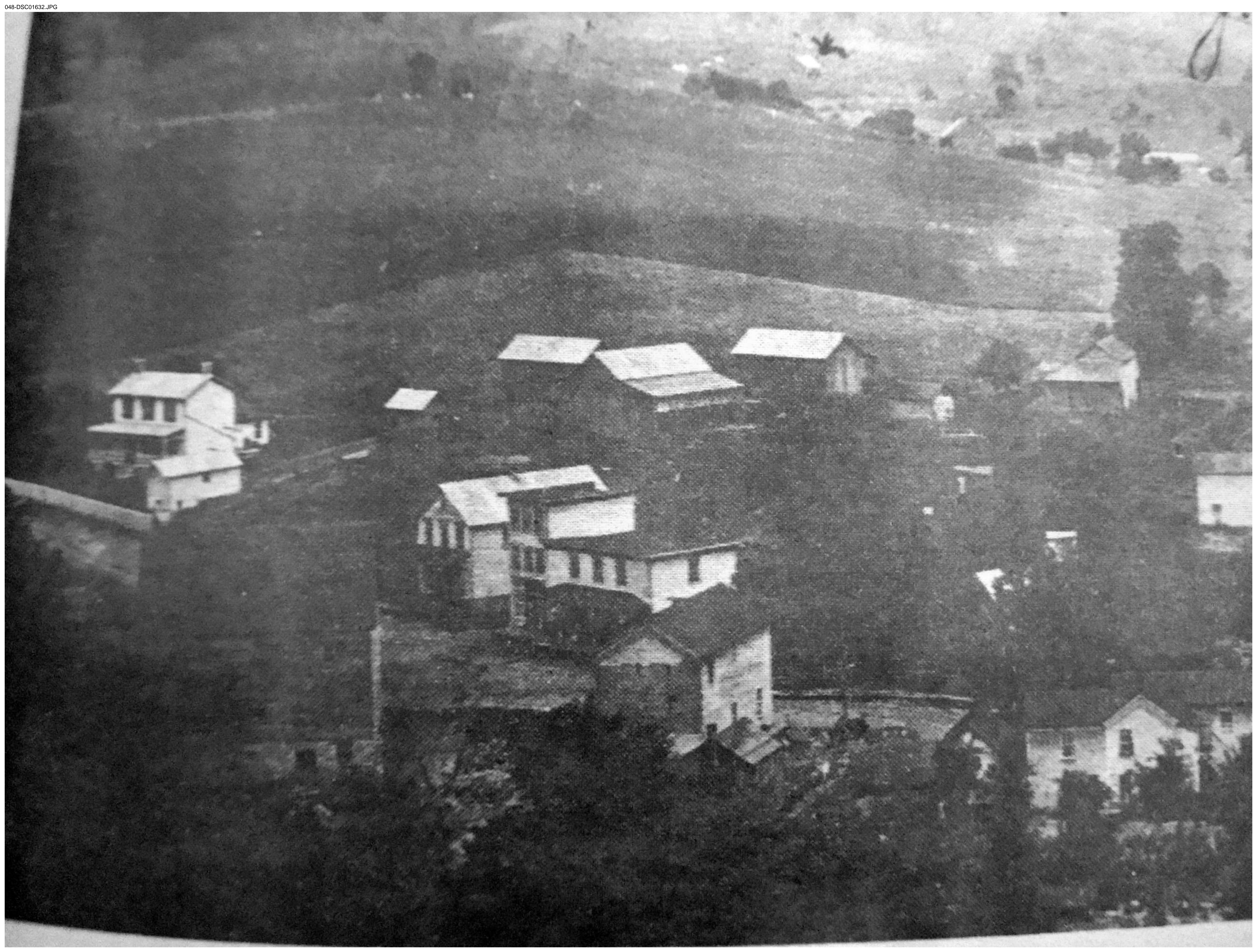
Monterey Telephone Company



THIS VIEW OF BLUE GRASS, in Highland County, dates to around 1915-16, when that village was known as Crabbottom.

The handwritten line at the top of the photo and an arrow asks the question, "Is this an aeroplane?"





# Bath Zoning Hearing Is Set for Sept. 10

WARM SPRINGS - A public hearing will be held Monday, Sept. 10, at 8 p.m. at the courthouse on a proposed zoning ordinance for Bath County.

The county's board of supervisors voted Tuesday afternoon to hold the hearing on the ordinance, which was submitted to the supervisors by the county planning commission in January 1968 but has not yet been acted on by the county fathers.

The decision to hold a hearing prompted a shouting match between Supervisor Stuart L. Hall of Williamsville District, who bitterly opposes zoning of any kind, and Chairman Roy M. Cleek, who favors the legislation.

Mr. Hall, who has stated in the past that "my people would rather ride on dirt roads than be dictated to by a zoning ordinance," said: "I've been against this thing from the start. You want to zone us regardless of what we want."

Referring to Mr. Cleek and Supervisors Norman T. May Sr. of Cedar Creek District and Clarence F. McMullen of Valley Springs District, all of whom favor zoning, Mr. Hall stated, "I can't stand you three people dictating to the county." Turning to Mr. Cleek, he went on: "I don't want you dictating to our side of the county, and you better get that through your head. If you like the way they do things in Russia, why don't you go over and live there?"

Mr. Cleek said he favors zoning because he feels it is necessary to prevent undesirable developments in the county as a result of the influx of people due to Virginia Electric and Power Co.'s proposed pumped storage project on Back Creek. He and other proponents of zoning have argued that if Bath doesn't enact a zoning ordinance of its own,

the state will mandate one that may not be to the county resident's liking.

Mr. Hall and Supervisor Charles A. Lowman Jr. of Millboro District, who also opposes zoning, openly suggested Tuesday that zoning, if adopted, may become an issue in this November's election, when the seat held by Mr. McMullen on a court appointment will be up for grabs. "Somebody's face could be red after the election," Mr. Lowman said, referring to the possibility that somebody opposed to zoning could be elected and an anti-zoning majority on the board might try to rescind the ordinance.

"I've been on this board for 30 years and I've never let an issue interfere with an election," Mr. Cleek answered him.

Mr. Cleek said the special meeting Sept. 10 would be held "for the sole purpose of the public hearing" and the actual vote would likely be taken at a later date.

In essence, the proposed or-

dinance would divide Bath County into five districts - agriculture limited, agriculture general, residential, business and industrial - with agricultural districts covering 90 per cent of the county and the residential, business and industrial districts primarily in the Warm Springs Valley.

The ordinance also proposes to establish a board of zoning appeals which would rule on zoning requests appealed from the board of supervisors.

There has been some agitation, particularly among residents of the developed area along US 220 southward from Warm Springs, to enact a zoning ordinance before the county is marred, in their opinion, by uncontrolled and unsightly development.

On the other hand, there is a feeling, especially strong in the rural, undeveloped eastern half of the county, that a zoning ordinance would result in a landowner losing some of his rights over his property.

## Dam Construction Halt Asked

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Opponents of the Gathright Dam in Bath and Alleghany counties, Va., asked the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals here Monday for an injunction which would stop construction on the dam until the federal appeals court can give a decision on an appeal of a lower court decision.

Three members of the court here gave no decision on the injunction request or on the appeal itself.

The environmentalists fighting the dam contended that further construction on the dam across the Jackson River would cause

"irreparable harm" to the environment.

Government lawyers argued that all of the damage which will be caused by the dam has already occurred in the Kincaid Gorge, where a \$19-million contract is now building the earth-filled dam itself. They said no further change in the environment will occur until water of the Jackson begin backing up to form a huge lake next year.

The ecologists, including the National Wildlife Federation, the Environment Defense Fund and several other conservation groups

(Continued on Page 2)

# Bath Zoning

## Public Hearing Monday on Political 'Hot Potato'

WARM SPRINGS - The continuing controversy over whether to zone Bath County will come to a head Monday night when the board of supervisors will hold a public hearing on a proposed zoning ordinance for the county. The hearing will begin at 8 p.m. at the courthouse.

Informed sources report that no vote will be taken at the hearing but rather at a later date. These sources say that what will happen next to the ordinance, which has been treated like a political hot potato since it was submitted to the supervisors by the county planning commission in January 1968, depends on what transpires at the hearing.

In essence, the ordinance proposes to divide Bath County into

five districts - agricultural limited, agricultural general, residential limited, residential general, business general and industrial limited. The agricultural districts would cover over 90 per cent of the county, with the residential, business and industrial districts being located primarily in the Warm Springs Valley and the Millboro area.

The ordinance would also establish a board of zoning appeals which would rule on rezoning requests appealed from the board of supervisors.

Proponents of zoning argue that zoning is necessary to prevent undesirable developments in the county as a result of the Gathright Dam, now under construction, and Virginia Electric and

Power Co.'s proposed pumped storage project on Back Creek.

They contend that the county's natural beauty could be marred by uncontrolled and unsightly developments and a zoning ordinance is one way to counteract these developments.

The pro-zoning forces further argue that if Bath doesn't enact a zoning ordinance of its own, the state will mandate one that may not be to county residents' liking.

On the other hand, there is a feeling among some county residents that a zoning ordinance would result in a landowner losing some of his rights over his property.

(Continued on Page 4)



# BATH ZONING

(Continued from Page 1)

The zoning question has resulted in sharp debate among board of supervisors members. Chairman Roy M. Cleek of Warm Springs District and Supervisors Norman T. May Sr. of Cedar Creek District and Clarence F. McMullen of Valley Springs District favor zoning, while Supervisors Stuart L. Hall of Williamsville District